Preliminary Amendment

Inventor: Burns, John Granville Attorney Docket No.: 717901.19

CLAIMS

1. A mat suitable for use as a playing surface, the mat comprising a support matrix and a filler material.

2. The mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support matrix comprises paper-mache.

- 3. The mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support matrix comprises an array of close-packed tubes that are packed with the filler material.
- 4. The mat as claimed in claim 3, wherein the tubes are formed from a porous material.
 - 5. The mat as claimed in claim 3, wherein adjacent tubes are attached to one another.
 - 6. The mat as claimed in claim 3, wherein the tubes have lateral perforations.
- 7. The mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filler material comprises at least one filler material selected from the group consisting of paper-mache, sand, grit, polymer beads, soil, loam, sphagnum moss, peat, wood chips or shavings, sawdust, and clay.
 - 8. The mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filler comprises a fibrous material.
 - 9. The mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mat is seeded with grass.
- 10. A method of making a mat for use as a playing surface, the method comprising adding a filler material to a support matrix, and heating or drying the support matrix and filler material.